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WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Winsford Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my first Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your Town for the year ended 31st December, 1939. In view of the increasing work in Public Health Departments of Local Authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, the Minister of Health in his Circular No. 2067 (19th July, 1940) has asked that the report be confined to essential and urgent matters which have arisen during the year.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	7,094 acres
Population - Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) population mid-1939 appropriate to the calculation of Birth Rates ..	11,170
(b) population appropriate to the calculation of Death Rates	11,310
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) ..	3,318
Rateable value	£47,522
Sum represented by a penny rate	£182

The incidence of unemployment is very low and in some industries there is a shortage of labour.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	180	97	83)	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.47
	(Illegitimate	4	2	2)	
Stillbirths		8	2	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 41.66
Deaths		159	88	71	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.06 After adjustment by the Comparability Factor .. 14.06

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	Nil.	-
Total	Nil.	-

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births ..	65.21
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	61.11
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	250.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1939
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

		M.	F.	Ttl.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
2.	Measles	-	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever..	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	1	-	1
6.	Influenza	5	7	12
7.	Encephalitis lethargica ..	-	-	-
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	1	1
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	2	2	4
10.	Other Tubercular Diseases ..	2	1	3
11.	Syphilis	-	-	-
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes dorsalis, etc.	-	-	-
13.	Cancer	7	5	12
14.	Diabetes	1	1	2
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	4	8
16.	Heart Disease..	23	14	37
17.	Aneurysm	-	-	-
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases ..	3	5	8
19.	Bronchitis	3	2	5
20.	Pneumonia (all forms).. ..	5	4	9
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases ..	-	1	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
23.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	-	1
24.	Appendicitis	-	-	-
25.	Cirrhosis of the Liver ..	-	-	-
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver ..	-	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases ..	3	-	3
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	3	6	9
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases ..	-	-	-
31.	Congenital Debility etc. ..	5	1	6
32.	Senility	6	5	11
33.	Suicide	-	-	-
34.	Other Deaths from Violence ..	3	-	3
35.	Other defined Diseases ..	9	7	16
36.	Ill-defined or Unknown ..	-	-	-
37.	Diarrhoea (2 years and over) ..	-	2	2
	Totals	88	71	159

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no extension of these services during the year. Details of the services available will be found in previous reports.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - No new source of supply was used during the year and apart from sundry renewals and minor extensions of mains the only improvement to the existing source of supply was the diversion of Abbey Arms Brook by a culvert byepass of Oakmere Lake. The Town's supply was sampled twice for chemical and bacteriological examinations and a satisfactory report was received for each sample.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Extension of the sewerage system during the year included the hitherto unsewered area of Wharton and new sewers and sewage works at Meadow Bank. Both these important extensions cost about £7,000. Swanlow South and Littler Lane now appear to be the only parts of this district in need of improved sewerage facilities and sewage disposal works.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 73 and the number of houses still on the old system in built-up areas is 116.

Public Cleansing.

The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY OFFICERS' (OUTSIDE LONDON) REGULATIONS, 1935
ARTICLE 27 (18).
Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made.	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions Instituted	Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	719	3	79	82	-	-	-
2. Cellar Dwellings	None in the District.						
3. Back-to-Back Houses	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Tents, Vans Sheds, etc.	14	2	4	6	-	-	-
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	182	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Privy Middens (Nil) Earth Closets (Nil) Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies	230	-	43	36	7	-	-
7. Cesspools (15)	15	-	1	1	-	-	-
8. House Drainage	549	7	15	22	-	-	-
9. Ditches, Watercourses, etc.	13	-	1	1	-	-	-
10. Offensive Accumulations	9	-	2	2	-	-	-
11. Keeping of Animals	20	-	3	3	-	-	-

Statement of Inspections made and notices issued.
(continued)

Nature of Inspections made.	Number	Number of Notices Served.		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions Instituted	Pending
12. Offensive Trades (1 Tripe Dresser & 1 bone & blood-meal manufacturer)	76	-	2	2	-	-	-
13(a)Slaughterhouses (Public) Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses (Private) 3 Regd. 11 Licensed	850	-	15	15	-	-	-
(b)Other places where food is produced or sold	161	-	5	5	-	-	-
14. Piggeries	158	-	5	5	-	-	-
15.(a) Dairies(3)	38	-	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Shippons(88)	36	-	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Milk Shops(13)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.(a)Factories with mechanical power	67	-	3	3	-	-	-
(b)Factories without mechanical power	35	-	1	1	-	-	-
(c)Other premises under the Act(including works of building)	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
(d)Outworkers premises	None in the District.						
17.Ashbins	69	-	38	38	-	-	-
18.Bakehouses (Overground)16 (Underground) Nil.	84	-	2	2	-	-	-
19.Common Lodging Houses	None in the District.						
20.Houses let in Lodgings	None in the District.						
21.Smoke Observations	14	-	2	-	-	-	-
22.River Boats(2 registered here)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.Infectious Disease Inquiries & Revisits	126	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.Miscellaneous	181	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3,649	12	227	230	7	-	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	67	3	-
Factories without mechanical power	35	1	-
Other premises	7	-	-
Totals	109	4	-

Defects found in Factories:-

Particulars	Number of Defects Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspectorutions	Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) (Insufficient (Unsuitable or defective. Not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-
Other offences	1	1	-	-
Totals	4	4	-	-

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The main activities during the year can be summarized as follows:-

1. - Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. 520.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .. 719.

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 .. .. 67.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. .. .. .. 56.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. 1.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.. 57.

11. - Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. 79.

111. - Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 10.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
(a) By owners .. .. 3.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. 7.

(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .. Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. .. .. Nil.

1V. - Housing Act, 1936. - Part 1V. Overcrowding:-

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. 17.
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 18.
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 110.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.. .. 1.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. 4.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .. 27.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .. Nil.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The routine examination of farms and dairies has been continued during the year. No samples of milk were submitted to the Laboratory for bacterial content or for Tubercle Bacilli.

(b) Meat and other Foods. - The following is a summary of the carcases inspected and condemned by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	805	41	17	3,131	23,901
All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	7	-	9	1,316
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	1.5%	17.1%	-	3%	5.53%
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	47	20	-	-	4,207
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.83%	48.78%	-	-	17.6%

Two beasts carcases were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938 and both were passed less offals, which were surrendered.

The Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act notified 6 suspected cases of Anthrax none of which were confirmed by the veterinary surgeons.

(c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVELANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

By regulations dated October 23rd, 1939, the Minister of Health made Measles and Whooping Cough notifiable diseases and all Medical Practitioners in the District have been informed of the Regulations and supplied with forms of notifications.

In July the Council decided upon a Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme to cover children between the ages of 1-14 years living in their area. The details of the Scheme were being worked out but with the outbreak of war and the pressure of other work action had to be deferred.

There is, however, a stock of Diphtheria Prophylactics provided by the Council which is available free of charge to Local Practitioners for the purpose of immunising any children who apply direct to them for the protective treatment.

As to the general incidence of Infectious Diseases for 1939, the arrival of 650 evacuated children and the billeting of troops in the District did not seriously affect the number of Infectious Diseases Notifications received.

Only four of the large number of evacuees received into ordinary billets in the Town needed to be removed to the local Fever Hospital during 1939.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submtd.	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	41	10	31
Bacillus typhosus	1	1	-

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1939.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	49	45	-
Diphtheria	14	14	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	-
Pneumonia	24	-	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Measles	8	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

It is gratifying to report a slight decrease in the number of new cases to the register during the year (15 as compared with 18 in 1938). The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1939

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resptry.		Respiratory		Non-Resptry.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
5 - 15 "	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
35 - 45 "	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Totals	5	1	5	4	2	2	2	1

Number of patients on register at 31.12.38 - 60.
" " " " " " 31.12.39 - 64.

7 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; none being reported on as positive.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of Bed-Bugs was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least twice during the year and 8 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating Bed-Bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I value and appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER.

Medical Officer of Health.

25th October, 1940.